

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Octavio Hernandez, I am a resident of Hartford. I am a member of *Hartford Deportation Defense*. I support **HB 6616: An Act Relating to the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits for Persons Ineligible Due to Immigration Status.**

I went to the hospital twice at the end of 2022. I have not received the bill but am afraid when I do. As an immigrant, the money I earn is not enough to pay medical bills without insurance. We are treated differently at the hospital when you don't have medical insurance. You are left off to the side. I was bleeding a lot and was not attended to quickly. It waited 3 hours before I was given medical attention. I fainted and did not realize when I received help. I am afraid to go seek medical attention for fear of having to be hospitalized and then not being able to afford the expenses. This fear is always there, and it causes trauma and sleepless nights with the worry about not being able to afford medical care and being sick.

I'm here supporting **HB 6616** because we need everyone to have access to health insurance. This law will cover my daughter, but all my children need me to be healthy, and the government should cover me as well.

Thanks for your time,

Octavio Hernandez